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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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1. On 8 October 1949, heavy fighting reportedly took place at Thirre between Government troops from Kukës and Nationalist partisans. Large Nationalist forces were on hand, source stated, because their chieftains had been summoned to a conference at Thirre by Ndue Pjetër Gjonomarkaj, nephew of Prince Markagjoni. The fighting lasted two days, and ended in the defeat of the Government forces.
2. The following administrative changes have reportedly been made by the Hoxha Government to reinforce its tenuous control over northern Albania:
  - a. The seat of the Subprefecture of Mirdite has been transferred from Shupël to the plain of Lunthi.
  - b. The bajraks (communes) of Kthelle and Selite have been placed under the jurisdiction of the Mati Subprefecture. The bajrak of Pandi was placed under the jurisdiction of Kukës.
  - c. The Mirdite Subprefecture now consists of only three bajraks, Oroshi, Kushmen and Dibri.
3. Source reports that 50 members of the Balli Kombetar, who allegedly reached Albania in mid-October by unspecified means, were betrayed to Government forces by inhabitants hostile to that party; 30 were killed while fighting, 20 taken prisoner.
4. A brigade of well-equipped Albanian refugees, trained in Yugoslavia and known as the "Koci Xoxe Brigade", is reportedly stationed on the Albanian frontier near Lake Shkoder, awaiting orders to commence action against the Hoxha Government.

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